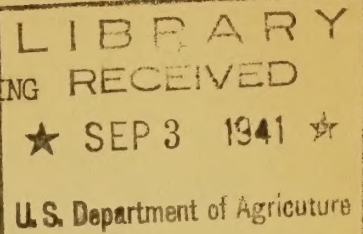


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TRANSIENT CAMP WESLACO'S SUCCESS--WHAT IS HAPPENING

By Jack Rutledge

(Harlingen Texas Star, March 5, 1941)



In the near future 224 shelters of the Farm Security Administration's migratory labor camp will be opened in Harlingen. It's a big thing, but just what will it mean to the community?

Well, the best way to judge is to take a look at Weslaco's project. It has been in operation for a long time, and what has happened there will happen here.

First, the camp is packed. They're actually bidding for homes. Over 1,100 people live there—a small city in itself. Of that total, there are 300 children of school age. All are Angle-Saxons, and 40 percent are Texans, 20 percent Oklahomans, and 40 percent are from other states.

It gives farmers and factories a ready supply of labor. It takes people out of riverbank slums and puts them in decent homes, which automatically means an improvement in health and a decided improvement in those people who are worthwhile citizens.

A recent survey at Weslaco showed a "phenomenal" improvement in health, and 60 percent of the persons living there are taking more interest in their government. This new health, and this new sense of security, has changed their mental attitude from one of sullen, sulky, obstinate opposition to everything (a breeding ground for isms) to one of optimism and of real interest in government.

Education is given children of these people for the first time, probably. At Weslaco, school busses pick up 150 pupils a day, take them to classes and bring them home again. Other tots attending kindergarten nursery at the camp. The person who made the survey—a woman—said the sight of these tots coming home from the kindergarten, their faces shining eagerly almost made her cry with joy.

Weslaco has gone about this camp sensibly, sanely and humanely. In some localities, unfortunately, the people look at these camps as something to be avoided. In Weslaco, the Lions club has sponsored a Boy Scout troop, the Methodist ladies are organizing a club, the chamber of commerce gives books, magazines, and other things, and the schools, as we mentioned above, send busses to pick up the school-age children. The government helps, too, with the Stamp plan augmenting the meager incomes most labor camp inhabitants make.

And how do these people react? They've become better citizens; they've become healthier, eliminating the threat of epidemics which so often start and spread among people living in squalor; they are educating their youngsters; a balanced lunch is given small children once a day;

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY JOHN F. JOHNSON

(Published by the Author, New York, 1851)

IN THE YEAR 1776, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WERE DECLARED INDEPENDENT OF GREAT BRITAIN. THIS DECLARATION WAS A STEP TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN 1787.

THE FIRST STEP IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES WAS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON JULY 4, 1776.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS A DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO BE FREE, AND IT WAS A DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO BE UNITED.

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there is a supervised playground; a kindergarten nursery; a library; there's a free movie once a week; they stage their own dances and musicals and talent shows; they're planning for milk and baby food free for children from birth to nursery age; they have a hospital and a clinic with a nurse in attendance; and they've asked for a church.

In short, these people are becoming an asset to their community instead of a deficit. Men get jobs through individual efforts or when large growers and shippers send for them by the truckload—so they're becoming independent, instead of being dependents of a town.

They don't put much money in circulation, like an army camp or a new factory or something like that, but by getting better homes, better health, and education, they become citizens instead of tramps.

They are, in short a REAL asset.

Let's hope Harlingen handles its camp as intelligently as Weslaco.

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There is a significant difference between the two groups. The first group is made up of people who are not interested in the subject. The second group is made up of people who are interested in the subject. The first group is made up of people who are not interested in the subject. The second group is made up of people who are interested in the subject.

In order to be able to do this, it is necessary to have a good knowledge of the subject. This is not always the case. It is necessary to have a good knowledge of the subject. This is not always the case. It is necessary to have a good knowledge of the subject. This is not always the case.

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